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Commission on Sustainable Development
Inter-sessional Ad Hoc Working Group on Oceans and Seas and on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States
1–5 March 1999
Item 2 of the provisional agenda
Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Provisional agenda

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Oceans and seas.
4. Sustainable development of small island developing States.
5. Other matters.
6. Adoption of the report of the Working Group.

Annotations

1. Election of officers

In accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, the Working Group shall elect, at the commencement of the first meeting, from among the representatives of its members, such officers as may be required. The membership of the Commission is given in annex II below.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

In accordance with rule 7 of the rules of procedure, the Working Group shall, at the beginning of the session, after the election of its officers, adopt the agenda for that session on the basis of the provisional agenda. The proposed programme of work of the Working Group is contained in annex I below.

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3. Oceans and seas

In its resolution 1997/63, the Economic and Social Council decided that during the period 1998–2002 the Commission on Sustainable Development should continue the practice of establishing, subject to approval by the Council, up to two inter-sessional ad hoc working groups in a given year with a view to assisting the Commission in the preparations for its forthcoming year.

Accordingly, in its decision 6/6, the Commission decided that one working group would be devoted to oceans and seas, and a comprehensive review of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, and that the other working group would be devoted to consumption and production patterns, including recommendations for sustainable consumption for inclusion in the United Nations guidelines for consumer protection, as requested by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1997/53, and tourism.

At its meeting on 16 December 1998, the Bureau of the Commission decided that the Inter-sessional Ad Hoc Working Group on Oceans and Seas and on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States would meet from 1 to 5 March 1999.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on oceans and seas (E/CN.17/1999/4)

4. Sustainable development of small island developing States

By paragraph 71 of the annex to its resolution S-19/2, the General Assembly decided to hold a two-day special session immediately preceding its fifty-fourth session for an in-depth assessment and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. In its resolution 52/202, the General Assembly reaffirmed that decision and in its resolution 53/189 it noted the importance of the decision to hold a two-day special session and stressed the importance of the full and effective participation of small island developing States in the special session and the seventh session of the Commission on Sustainable Development as the preparatory body for the special session.

In its decision 6/6, the Commission, bearing in mind that the issue of a comprehensive review of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States was included in its programme of work for 1999, decided that, one of its two working groups would be devoted to oceans and seas and the sustainable development of small island developing States.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (E/CN.17/1999/6 and Add. 1–16)

Report of the Secretary-General on current donor activities for small island developing States (E/CN.17/1999/7)

5. Other matters

Pursuant to the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, the Commission will discuss energy issues at its ninth session (General Assembly resolution S-19/2, annex, para. 46 (a)). Noting the vital role of energy in the continuation of sustained economic growth, especially for developing countries, be they importers or suppliers of energy, and recognizing the complexities and interdependencies inherent in addressing energy issues within the context of sustainable development, the Assembly stated that preparations for the ninth session should be initiated at the seventh session and should utilize an open-ended intergovernmental group of experts on energy and sustainable development to be held in conjunction with inter-sessional meetings of the eighth and ninth sessions of the Commission.

Accordingly, on 5 March 1999, the Secretariat will brief the Working Group on preparations for the ninth session, and solicit preliminary views among delegations to assist it in formulating specific proposals for consideration during the seventh session.

6. Adoption of the report of the Working Group

In accordance with established practice, the Working Group will submit a report to the Commission at its seventh session.

As decided by the Bureau at its meetings on 16 December 1998 and 20 January 1999, the report will consist of two parts: (i) a Co-Chairman's summary and (ii) elements of a draft decision for future negotiation during the seventh session of the Commission.

Annex I

Proposed programme of work

The proposed programme of work for the Inter-sessional Ad Hoc Working Group on Oceans and Seas and on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States is based on recommendations made by the Bureau.

Week of 1–5 March

Monday, 1 March*		Opening of the session
a.m.	*Item 1*	Election of officers
		Opening statements by the Co-Chairmen
	Item 2	Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters
	Item 3	Oceans and seas
		Introduction of the report of the Secretary-General
		Introduction of results of relevant inter-sessional meetings
		General discussion
p.m.	*Item 3*	Oceans and seas
		Continuation and conclusion of general discussion
Tuesday, 2 March*		
a.m.	*Item 4*	Sustainable development of small island developing States
		Introduction of the report of the Secretary-General and other relevant documentation
		Introduction of results of relevant inter-sessional meetings
		General discussion
p.m.	*Item 4*	Sustainable development of small island developing States
		Continuation and conclusion of general discussion

* Should delegations choose to make national presentations, such presentations would be made during the morning meetings of Monday, 1 March, and Tuesday, 2 March 1999. The programme of work would be adjusted accordingly.

Wednesday, 3 March		
a.m.	*Item 3*	Oceans and seas
		Introduction of Co-Chairman's summary
		Introduction of elements for a draft decision
p.m.	*Item 3*	Oceans and seas
		General discussion of Co-Chairman's summary and of elements for a draft decision
Thursday, 4 March		
a.m.	*Item 4*	Sustainable development of small island developing States
		Introduction of draft document*
a.m.	*Item 4*	Sustainable development of small island developing States
		General discussion of draft document
Friday, 5 March		
a.m.	*Item 5*	Other matters
		Briefing by the Secretariat on preparations for the ninth session on issues related to energy
		Comments by delegations
	Item 3	Oceans and seas
		Introduction of second draft of Co-Chairman's summary
		Introduction of second draft of elements for a draft decision
	Item 4	Sustainable development of small island developing States
		Introduction of second draft of draft document
p.m.	*Items 3 and 4*	Oceans and seas
		Sustainable development of small island developing States
		Final comments by delegations on the above documents
	Item 6	Adoption of the report of the Working Group
		Closure of the session

* In accordance with paragraph 71 of the annex to General Assembly resolution S-19/2, the outcome of item 4 (Sustainable development of small island developing States) will be a draft document for adoption by the Assembly at its two-day special session.

Annex II

Membership of the Commission on Sustainable Development at its seventh session

Algeria
Antigua and Barbuda
Belgium
Benin
Bolivia
Brazil
Bulgaria
Canada
Central African Republic
China
Colombia
Côte d'Ivoire
Czech Republic
Democratic People's Republic of Korea
Djibouti
Egypt
France
Gabon
Germany
Guyana
Hungary
India
Indonesia
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Ireland
Japan
Mauritania
Mauritius
Mexico
Mozambique
Netherlands
New Zealand
Nicaragua
Niger
Pakistan
Panama
Peru
Philippines
Poland
Portugal
Russian Federation
Saudi Arabia
Slovakia
Spain
Sri Lanka
Sudan
Sweden
Switzerland
Thailand
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United States of America
Venezuela
Zimbabwe